

## **NOAA in the Carolinas Steering Committee Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday, March 4, 2009

**Time:** 10AM until 2PM

**Location:** NWS – Raleigh, NC

**Attendees:** Darin Figurskey, Rich Bandy, Andy Shepard, Aleta Hohn, Jennifer Dorton

**Con Call Participants:** Rebecca Ellin, Susan White, Jeff Payne, Bob Bacon, Ginny Fay, Scott Cross

**Guest Participants:** Michael Liffman (Sea Grant), Steve Pfaff (NWS WFO Wilmington)

1. NinC Fall meeting
  - a. Pick a location
    - i. DNR has stadium style seating which is not conducive to the NinC conference. Hard to have discussions among attendees, slightly constrictive.
    - ii. Meeting will be hosted at CSC. Meeting planners are on site (Lynn, Linda and Gail) and lend to success of meeting.
    - iii. Set up tour or evening meal at Ft. Johnston to show off the campus.
    - iv. Need the list of meeting attendees (a week or so before the meeting) to go to security group so that people can easily get onto CSC.
  - b. Pick a date
    - v. Late in October is better. Oct 20-21, travel on 19.
    - vi. Invite new NOAA Administrator (Jane Lubchenko).
    - vii. Jeff will schedule the meetings rooms for Oct 20-21 at CSC.
2. NinC Fall meeting: Work with NOAA Coastal Integration Team (CIT) to assist with the meeting (prior to Michal Liffman calling in).
  - a. CIT has an OMB directive to integrate activities within 3 NOS offices. OHC (thru Sanctuaries) has been a partner within the last year. Have mission/vision/ strategies for areas they think they can have impact. OMB has said they have to show results and there could be some repercussions if they don't show results.
  - b. The NinC meeting will be a good conduit to integrate activities within Coastal Integration Team, NinC, SECART, and the states.
  - c. CIT needs a success. If this meeting can lead to something tangible for them, then we will have another advocate for NinC.

- i. There will need to be a process oriented part of the meeting to determine how we work together.
  - d. We are starting to see areas of overlap between SARRP, NOAA Climate/Ecosystem Strategy, and Coastal Integration Team. In the area where all of these converge, is there a project (or projects) that can be defined?
    - i. Until we get all of the people together, how do we identify the overlap?
    - ii. What are the meeting outcomes that we should focus on and what will our tangible item be?
  - e. Southeast Alliance – It would be good to get the 4 states and federal partners involved. We may not need all four states, but it would be good to have some of the Alliance participants at the meeting.
  - f. SARRP – Sea Grant states were charged with coming up with the top coastal and ocean research priorities for their regions. The Southeast is leading the nation in developing a useful product (survey outcomes) that NOAA and the universities can use as they develop their research priorities.
    - i. Would be good to have Christine LaPorte give an update on the research priorities and future of the project (i.e., what comes after the survey).
    - ii. There will be a two day SARRP meeting to discuss issues, drivers, what has been done so far and setting research priorities. This will occur prior to the NinC meeting.
    - iii. The results should especially help guide Sea Grant’s research priorities and how Sea Grant strategically invests its resources in the future.
- 3. Michael Liffman (National Sea Grant) – Discussed integration of programs with OCRM, NOS, Office of Habitat Conservation and NCCOS. OMB wanted to remove redundancy within these groups and wanted to see more integration within the agencies. The NOAA Coastal Integration Team formed to find areas that could be streamlined.
  - a. Became apparent that there were things already going on where the folks from Silver Spring can add value (not butt in or change the scope of the project, but add to the project).
    - i. NinC has been one of the more prominent programs that he and Ruth Kelty (member of CIT) have seen.
  - b. The top 3 priorities the CIT are focusing on are Coastal Hazards, Pollution, and Competing use of Habitats. Other areas of concern are Coastal Inundation and Climate Change.

- i. Find a project (s) that all groups have an interest in and look at budgets to determine how to fund these opportunities.
  - c. Bob Bacon stated that Climate Extension is a high priority in NC and SC. A good project might be to set up communications mechanisms to share NOAA research efforts and outreach on climate initiatives with the public in a very efficient way.
    - i. Andy and Bob both felt that there should be more focus on climate adaptation (what happens as the climate changes, e.g. Albemarle/Pamlico Sounds as Outer Banks disappear).
  - d. Rich Bandy felt that we should look at short term and long term inundation problems. Need to look at both time scales and use the two time scales to help bridge the gap between what is happening now and what will be happening in the future.
    - i. Scott Cross supported Rich's comments and stated there is a direct tie in with CI-FLOW and we can close the loop on that project.
    - ii. Due to concerns that there are not enough tangible outcomes in our discussions so far, Aleta stated that we should discuss where to push CI-FLOW into South Carolina at the NinC meeting.
  - e. Rebecca: Meeting should ID communication mechanisms between agencies but also bring in projects we have supported in the past and determine where they go next. How do we expand our research and tangible results to the larger NinC region?
  - f. Andy mentioned the need to work closely with NOAA CIT to plan our next meeting so that NinC can facilitate projects and research that is coordinated among NOAA agencies and external partners.
  - g. Darin reiterated the need to have a tangible item out of the 2009 meeting since we did not have a tangible from the 2008 meeting. We will need to explain to meeting attendees where we have come since 2008, not just where we are going after the 2009 meeting.
  - h. Michael Liffman stated that CIT can help with meeting organization, help with breakout sessions, help ID projects and then work towards a CIT project. The CIT wants to figure out how to better serve constituents that you (NinC) serve and tax payers.
4. NinC Fall meeting: pick a topic (after Michael Liffman rang off)
- a. Review Climate Change Report: page 8 —...NOAA should organize regular workshops among scientists and managers from climate, ocean and coastal sectors to help identify key needs and enhance development and exchange of improved tools and information...

NOAA should establish and maintain nationally coordinated regional climate, coastal and living marine resources, and management programs.

- b. We can be broad but not too broad on what we plan.
  - i. We need to look for new or innovative goods and services that are in the overlap zone between SARRP, NOAA Climate/Ecosystem Strategy, and Coastal Integration Team priorities.
  - ii. Review break out groups that were successful in the past.
- c. The meeting planning team can work with the SARRP, CIT, and even the Alliance and we can get them to help us identify and help narrow down the focus.
  - i. We need to get representatives from each of the groups to meet with us on a con call and/or invite them to the next NinC meeting.
- d. Ginny brought up the fact that there have been a lot of storm surge and inundation meetings; however, she said that the groups really have not gotten their acts together yet. There is some concern that NOAA is spinning the word “inundation” right now but the meetings are very scattered and lack focus. If we want to pursue inundation then we need to find out who is doing what within NOAA and really define what “inundation” really means.
  - i. Scott: If we can get our act together we can define our story locally and determine what we want to push.
- e. Jeff: Inundation is a bit of a cluster (e.g. John Dorman’s work, IOOS work, etc). Everyone is trying to lead but no real leader is emerging. A lot of inundation work is really about adaptation and mitigation due to climate change. Adaptation is a piece that we can share among groups (e.g. rising sea level in regards to episodic and future shoreline changes).
  - i. Think about chronic climate change and adaptation. Some states are really making state level adaptation strategies. What are NC and SC doing? They are one very large ecosystem. Use SARRP to hone in on our priorities and use this to find out what rises to the top and focus our research on these.
  - ii. Climate education is another area we need to focus on since there are so many nay say-ers out there. Also, bringing in the Alliance since they may be charged with helping define some of the adaptation strategies. Mitigation is not what we are doing or thinking about.
  - iii. We can invite state level agencies, researchers, NOAA and others to help define adaptation strategies for the NinC region.

- iv. Possible meeting focus: Climate Adaptation in the Carolinas or Climate Adaptation Strategies in the Carolinas.
  - 1. Define adaptation in the plenary (Virginia Burket (USGS), Susie Moser, Mike Orbach (Duke)). Have these speakers discuss implications for species diversity and range due to climate change; changes in personal practices (e.g. building practices, infrastructure, land use planning, emergency management); and, define the barriers to adaptation (e.g. social, economic).
- v. NOAA is trying to define the National Climate Service and is starting to lead this charge. NinC can identify and document the results of the discussion and push these results up to the National Climate Service. We can help define what those products and services may look like based on the needs identified at the meeting. If Climate is where funding lies, then our region could be at the fore front.
- f. There was a general discussion on how this idea can generate tangible products so that we aren't just creating a report.
  - i. Andy: We can generate a report and define products/services that are needed to assist with climate adaptation in the region. CI-FLOW will fit well with this.
  - ii. Everyone agreed that we will need to have non-NOAA people at the meeting to increase impacts with our constituents.
- g. Jeff informed the group that the Alaska Governor has pulled together a commission to help address these climate change issues and adaptation strategies immediately. Maryland, Florida and Washington are starting engage in adaptation strategies as well.
  - i. Look at water levels, not just sea level rise. As far as active discussion regarding adaptation, neither NC nor SC is really moving forward. This will have to go outside of the immediate NOAA family (state climate offices, environment and natural resource offices, EPA).
  - ii. We can invite Dorsey Worthy to participate as well since this may work well with the Coastal Carolinas Initiative.
- h. There is a need to narrow the focus down to key topics that are NOAA responsibilities and use these for our breakout sessions.
  - i. Discussion over which extramural groups to bring into this meeting (e.g. ecosystem and living resource managers and state climate offices;)

- ii. There was some concern over bring in land use planners? Rich will talk to leader of the Hazard resilient communities (Nell Codner).
- i. Use the NOAA Priority Area Task Team (PATT) themes to structure our breakout groups. Within these groups we need to find out what NOAA products and services they need will help address climate adaptation.
  - i. Hazard Resilient Coastal Communities – Margaret Davidson
  - ii. Integrated Ecosystems Assessments – Steve Murawski
  - iii. Integrated Water Resource Services – Gary Carter
  - iv. Outreach and Communications – Louisa Koch
    - 1. This may need to be a cross cutting theme for PATT's 1-3 instead of a standalone breakout.
  - v. Jeff stated that is a good option for the breakouts; however, the breakouts may change as we define the primary meeting goal more.
  - vi. Jennifer is going to complete an initial draft of a plan and share with a small working group which consists of: Aleta, Jeff, Darin, Rebecca and Jennifer.
    - 1. Jennifer will send out meeting notes and draft plan by Friday. Small group will have two weeks to finalize draft and send out to Steering Committee.
    - 2. Have the SARRP, NIT, and Alliance representatives get on a call with us to fully vet the NinC meeting plan. This may occur before or at our next SC meeting.
  - vii. Andy volunteered to look into NC and SC adaptation plans (or find out if anything has been started).
    - 1. Jeff has some resources that indicate what the states have started. Send info out Andy.
    - 2. Addendum post SC meeting: As per Ryan Boyles (State Climate Office of North Carolina) when asked if NC is moving forward on a Climate Adaptation plan: I don't think there has been any further activity toward developing an adaptation plan, despite the efforts by several folks associated with the Legislative Commission on Climate Change to put focus on this. I would be very happy to participate with the Steering committee on this.

- j. Have to get meeting info (dates, location and theme) out to larger group 6 months in advance of the meeting. We need to pin down our topic area and no later than April 15.
- k. Next SC meeting date: April 6 in Newport.
  - 1. Aleta and Jeff tied up until April 3.
- 5. Geno Olmi was added to the Steering Committee. This will allow us to have a close connection with SECART within NinC.
- 6. Steve Pfaff, from the NWS office in Wilmington, NC called in to discuss events surrounding the P3 Hurricane Hunter visits to Raleigh and Wilmington.
  - a. P3 Hurricane Hunter is in Raleigh on May 6 and Wilmington on May 7. There are events scheduled at both locations surrounding the Hurricane Hunter stop. School kids, town/city managers, emergency managers, elected officials, and the public are all invited to attend.
  - b. Raleigh: NinC will have a display with staff from the Raleigh and Newport WFO staff as well as NCSG staff manning the booth. The event will be in the general aviation terminal of the airport and tables will be available. Darin is getting the NinC display from Susan to set up in Raleigh.
  - c. Wilmington: 8 schools with staggered arrival times (5<sup>th</sup> grade classes). Students will arrive at 8:30 AM. Media and VIP will come after the schools. Public will be allowed to view the P3 from 3-5PM. Andy and Jennifer will have to bring our own table and chairs for the event. *Jennifer will get display from Rich to set up in Wilmington.*
    - i. *Jack will call Scott Baker and Brian Efland to help out with the booth.*
    - ii. *Jennifer will contact Rebecca to let her know how many people we may need from NERRs to help man the booth.*
  - d. *Andy will find out if UNCW has tents that can be used.*
  - e. *Aleta has items that we can put on display.* Work with Aleta to find out if we have items that can be used at both locations.
  - f. *Ginny will follow up with NOAA enforcement and see if they have items that we can use for display.*
  - g. *Rich will see if he has 1-2 volunteers that are willing to come down to Wilmington for the event.*
- 7. Funding for Jennifer
  - a. Received a no cost extension to NCSG through September 2009.

- b. Michael Liffman mentioned that they may have resources to support NinC projects of interest to CIT. It was suggested that it would be immensely helpful to NinC if Michael could support a contractor's time to help plan, organize, and implement the upcoming annual meeting. The meeting will be planned so as to take into account the priorities of CIT as well as the other entities discussed. The contractor would also be needed to assist with the final meeting report. Jack offered to contact Michael Liffman to see if such financial assistance might be possible.
- c. Jack, Jeff and Michael Voiland will have meeting in the near term to discuss funding strategies.
- d. Jack will check on how the funds were allocated within NCSG (were they listed as a 1 year funding request or is it open ended).